

IN RECOGNITION OF ASSISTANT SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE MICHAEL D. DROMGOOLE, DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) Michael D. Dromgoole.

Prior to joining the DEA, Michael began his law enforcement career with the Texas Department of Public Safety as a Highway Patrol Trooper in 1973. In 1980, he began his DEA career as a Special Agent and completed assignments in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara, California before coming to Texas. His work ethic and dedication led to multiple promotions and in October 1998, he was reassigned as an Assistant Special Agent in Charge in the Dallas Field Division. After twenty-eight years of service with the DEA, Michael will be retiring this year.

The Dallas area has greatly benefited from his vision and leadership. He foresaw a safer and better community and took every effort to do make this goal a reality. He helped enhance the cooperation between the DEA and local and state agencies, making attempts to combat drug trafficking and the enforcement of controlled substance laws more successful. Michael leaves a legacy of civic duty that will be greatly missed.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude for his exemplary service to this great Nation.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MR. DON W. KASSING, PRESIDENT OF SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of California's most successful university presidents, Mr. Don W. Kassing. Don will be retiring this year and I would like to highlight some of the significant contributions he has made, not only to the university, but also to the surrounding community. It is with mixed emotions that I say farewell to Don—I am saddened to see him go, but do so with tremendous pride and respect for the accomplishments he has made to my alma mater, San Jose State University.

In August of 2004, following the unexpected resignation of his predecessor, Don leapt into action as the newly appointed interim president of San Jose State University. Accepting this position just before the start of the school year, Don moved quickly to reassure an apprehensive campus that all focus would remain on the important business of starting the fall semester. His confidence in the collective capabilities of the San Jose State University faculty and staff, his generous and collegial management and leadership style, and the trust and respect that he had garnered during

his 11 years of service as San Jose State University's vice president for administration and finance quickly created a sense of stability.

One of Don's first actions as president was to galvanize the campus to organize its first-ever campuswide strategic planning process. This thorough planning involved a mobilization of all campus units and resulted in a vibrant "Vision 2010." San Jose State University is now at the end of two full cycles of implementation.

Leading by example, Don repeatedly made thoughtful, public stands on tough issues. He strongly supported a student initiative to honor two San Jose State athletes and civil rights icons, Tommie Smith and John Carlos, medal winners of the 1968 Olympics, who chose a non-violent protest during the medals ceremony to bring attention to the American civil rights movement. The groundbreaking and dedication ceremonies for the campus sculpture in 2007 gave the University at long last the opportunity to appropriately honor and embrace the athletes and their actions.

Building upon the successful partnership with the city of San Jose to develop the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, Don was instrumental in forging the Beyond Martin Luther King collaborative, which initiated a broader commitment and conversation with city and San Jose State University leadership staff and community stakeholders. Since 2004, key partnership projects have sparked neighborhood development, affordable housing-to-workforce enhancement and co-production of major events. This successful collaborative effort serves as a model of how a positive, symbiotic relationship between a lively campus and a vibrant downtown can be used to enhance the stature of both a city and its university.

This year, Don led the campus in a decision to suspend blood drives, citing the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's lifetime blood donor deferral affecting gay men as being in violation of the university's nondiscrimination policy. The public stand taken by SJSU has re-ignited debate across the country about FDA's policy. It is my hope that the questions raised by Don's actions will lead to a thorough, thoughtful, and scientifically sound reexamination of FDA policy.

Mr. Kassing's successes can best be summed up in the words of its accrediting body. In a letter last July, Western Association of Schools and Colleges Executive Director Ralph Wolff said: "The Commission would like to extend its commendation to the San Jose State University community on the truly remarkable distance it has traveled since fall 2004. The team report notes 'significant progress' in assessment of student learning and enrollment management; the positive influence of recent appointments at the senior level; an operational strategic plan; innovative new programs for student success; and above all, dramatic changes in culture, energy and focus on campus."

Madam Speaker, I will miss seeing my friend, Don Kassing, in San Jose, but wish him and his spouse, Amy, only the best as they embark on the next phase of their journey in Arizona.

CONGRATULATING MAJORS DAVID AND PAT WAITE ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR RETIREMENT FROM THE SALVATION ARMY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the long and distinguished careers of Majors David and Pat Waite, on the occasion of their retirement from the Salvation Army.

With careers spanning over 40 years, the Waites' service has carried them across the Southeast, to Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Texas, and Alabama. Their ministry also carried them to South America, where they served in Brazil for three years.

Majors David and Pat met as undergraduates while attending Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky. David graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology, and Pat graduated with a degree in elementary education. They married in 1966 while David was in seminary school, and in 1969, David graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary with a master's of divinity degree.

In 1969, David and Pat entered Officers' Training School. David spent much of this first year of training attending Emory University's Candler School of Theology. As Cadet-Lieutenants, the Waites spent their second year of training in St. Petersburg, Florida, and in 1971, David and Pat were commissioned as officers.

The Waites served in various locations throughout Florida, including Fort Pierce, Jacksonville, Ocala, and Clearwater, before being assigned to the College for Officers' Training in Atlanta, Georgia, where they would stay for three years. Majors David and Pat then went on to serve as corps officers at the Atlanta Temple Corps.

From Atlanta, David and Pat were assigned to Divisional Headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky. Here, David served as the divisional secretary and Pat served as assistant home league secretary. In 1995, the Waites moved to Austin, Texas, where David was appointed territorial candidates secretary and associate candidates secretary.

In 1997, David was named education secretary. His primary responsibility in this capacity was to transition the Education Department from Territorial Headquarters to the Evangeline Booth College. David was also responsible for opening the School for Continuing Education where he served as assistant principal. During their assignment in Austin, Pat opened the Continuing Education Center and served as its director. She also laid the ground work for the new continuing education programs and the degree completion program.

The Waites received their orders assigning them to Brazil in 1999. In Brazil, David served as associate public relations secretary, public relations secretary, and personnel secretary for the Brazil territory. Pat served as the territorial home league secretary and later, as assistant to the personnel secretary.

The Waites arrived in Mobile in 2002 where David was named area commander and Pat was named coordinator for women's activities. After six years of service in Mobile, the Waites are retiring to San Antonio, Florida, where many fellow Salvationists reside.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing two dedicated community leaders and friends to many throughout Alabama. I know their family, their children, and their many friends join me in praising their accomplishments and extending thanks for their outstanding service over the years on behalf of the First District and the state of Alabama.

Majors David and Pat Waite will surely enjoy the well deserved time they now have to spend with family and loved ones. On behalf of a grateful community, I wish them the best of luck in all of their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MISSISSIPPI SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 667

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, today I submit into the RECORD Concurrent Resolution No. 667 adopted by the Mississippi Senate and House of Representatives. The resolution urges the United States Congress to accept the decision of the United States Air Force concerning the award of the jet tanker contract to Northrop Grumman Corporation and EADS North America. Each day we delay approving this contract, we prevent the Air Force men and women from receiving the equipment necessary to ensure our national security. I encourage my colleagues to review this resolution.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 667

Whereas, after an extensive evaluation process, the United States Air Force awarded a \$35 Billion jet tanker contract to Northrop Grumman Corporation and EADS North America; and

Whereas, these vital military aircraft will be built at Mobile Brookley Field Industrial Complex, creating more than 2,000 new jobs for workers in the States of Mississippi and Alabama; and

Whereas, efforts to overturn the decision of the United States Air Force concerning its detailed analysis are irresponsible and a true threat to our national security; it is imperative that elected officials support the decision makers whom they entrust with these important determinations; and

Whereas, Mississippi workers are ready, able and eager to begin constructing the aircraft that the United States Air Force has rated as superior in five-out-of-five categories, and the interest of national defense should clearly rule over regional political posturing: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of Mississippi, the House of Representatives concurring therein, That the United States Congress is respectfully encouraged to accept the decision of the United States Air Force concerning the awarding of the jet tanker contract to Northrop Grumman Corporation and EADS North America, refrain from turning this vital national security matter into a political free-for-all, and allow the competent and capable workers of Mississippi to immediately begin work on this critical contract. Be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to members of Mississippi's congressional dele-

gation and to the Secretary of Defense and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE FILL SUSPENSION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Fill Suspension and Consumer Protection Act, H.R. 6022, which suspends the acquisition of oil for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve for the rest of this year, unless the average price of oil over a 90-day period drops below \$75 a barrel. Earlier the Senate adopted an identical amendment, by a vote of 97–1.

As Memorial Day approaches and the summer driving season begins, there is little relief in sight for Americans from high prices at the pump, as gasoline prices quickly climb close to \$4 a gallon and diesel fuel prices reach over \$4 a gallon. Suspending acquisitions to the SPR, presently at 96 percent capacity, will free up 70,000 barrels of oil per day for supply and could reduce gasoline prices by 2–5 cents per gallon. Last month I was pleased to join Republican colleagues in calling on House leadership to temporarily suspend acquisitions to the SPR, and while such action will only free up a fraction of world oil supplies, I am pleased to lend my support to this first step in easing the financial pinch for families and truck drivers across the country.

The laws of supply and demand are real and high gas prices are one aspect of the bigger picture, and the fact remains that oil dependence affects our economy, security, and environment. In my view technology will take us to the next level in clean and alternative transportation fuels, and this requires robust investments now. Congress should address the cost-crunch today and act to ensure we have a comprehensive, clean, and secure energy policy for tomorrow.

In addition to the temporary suspension of acquisitions to the SPR, I believe we should also consider increasing refining capacity in the United States, without compromising environmental permitting, as well as ask transparency from oil producing countries to help verify available oil reserves and production capacity. Individual consumers too can take action by driving 55 miles per hour or less and proper tire inflation, which will slow gas consumption and save money. Looking forward, long-term extensions for renewable energy and energy efficiency tax credits are paramount; I have repeatedly supported efforts in the House to extend these important incentives and believe solutions to the present logjam over oil and gas subsidies are long overdue. I recently joined colleagues in the House as a supporter of the Clean Energy Tax Stimulus Act of 2008, which would provide for the limited continuation of clean energy production incentives and incentives to improve energy efficiency that would otherwise lapse under current tax law legislation.

There will be ongoing discussions about energy policies in Congress, and proposals will

range from domestic drilling to lowering demand. As demand for world oil continues to climb, supply concerns are real. I support looking for alternatives before drilling in some of our most sensitive coastal areas, however Congress did open an additional 8.3 million acres in the eastern Gulf of Mexico, "Lease 181," to new oil and gas leases in December 2006, and I read with interest the oil discovery in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico that was just announced by Chevron.

Last year, Congress worked in a bipartisan manner to reduce our demand for oil by increasing the fuel economy standards for cars and trucks. It is my great hope that members on both sides of the aisle will continue to work on policies to reduce consumption, encourage innovative technology development, and promote energy self-sufficiency. I am pleased to support this temporary suspension to the SPR and hope it begins a meaningful dialogue about energy policy in this country, which is so important not only for national security but also for tackling global warming.

THE PASSING OF CONGRESSWOMAN BONO MACK'S FATHER CLAY WESTERFIELD WHITAKER, M.D.

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness we share the news of the passing of Clay Westerfield Whitaker, M.D., father of Representative MARY BONO MACK, on May 13th after a long and valiant battle with prostate cancer. It was an honor to have known Dr. Whitaker and it is a privilege to serve with Congresswoman BONO MACK who is a testament and tribute to her father. From the talks I had with Dr. Whitaker, I know how proud he was of her great work.

Born in Greenville, Kentucky on April 17, 1924, Whitaker was the son of Eva Nell Hunt Whitaker and Levi Whitaker. The youngest of six siblings, all of whom preceded him in death, he was only five years old when his father, a physician, died at the age of thirty. Whitaker's mother, now a single parent, worked hard to make ends meet during the years of the Great Depression. When speaking of those years, Whitaker often said, "We didn't think we were poor; we just didn't have any money." His mother understood the importance of a good education, and along with his sisters, he was admitted to Berea College in Kentucky. At Berea, he met the love of his life, Karen Lee Taylor. Together, they enjoyed music and an active campus life until his college education was interrupted when he entered the Army Air Corps during WWII. Assigned to the 8th Air Force, 95th Bomb Group, 334th Squadron stationed in Horham, England, Whitaker served as a B–17 waist gunner and flew 19 missions over Germany. After victory had been achieved, Whitaker wrote to his college sweetheart asking for her hand in marriage when he returned to Berea College.

Upon returning home, Whitaker was greeted at the train station by his sister and future bride, Karen. As he stepped off the train, his